

Job Front: Some small firms ready to hire in year's second half

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A leading Internet job-search site says some small businesses will be ready to hire in the second half of the year, according to its latest nationwide survey.

CareerBuilder surveyed more than 1,300 hiring managers at small businesses across the country in June.

In all, 32 percent of respondents at firms with 500 or fewer employees said they would hire between July and December. A quarter of businesses with 50 or fewer workers said they planned to hire during the second half of the year.

Just as many job seekers – 26 percent – who were laid off in the last six months and hadn't yet found work were considering starting their own businesses instead of continuing their job search.

"The intellectual capital that companies were forced to lay off over the last 18 to 24 months was substantial," said Brent Rasmussen, president of CareerBuilder North America, in a statement announcing the survey results. "It's not surprising that many are creating their own opportunities."

But many small businesses remain on the hiring sidelines, stalled by lack of access to capital, shaken consumer confidence and persistent high unemployment.

"Small businesses have not seen a turnaround or the needed revenue to justify hiring," said Drew White, chief executive officer of North Carolina-based business analysts Sageworks Inc., which released its most recent report on small-business performance last week.

Indeed, the growth rate and consumer spending in the second quarter posted their weakest showings since late last year, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

White said the recovery will continue to plod along until revenues increase, but that smaller businesses will be poised to move more rapidly on hires than their larger counterparts when the climate improves.

"They are quick to react. They are eager to hire," White said. "We've sort of plateaued. The federal government has put tons of money into the system. International companies are flush with cash. We haven't hit a tipping point yet, but it's there."

Career fair in Elk Grove

A Wednesday career fair in Elk Grove will feature local and regional employers and resources for job seekers.

The free employment fair sponsored by Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan, D-Alamo, is 11 a.m. to

2 p.m. at the pavilion at Elk Grove Regional Park, 9950 Elk Grove Florin Road.

More than 30 employers and job training resources are scheduled to appear, including Bank of America, Schools Credit Union, 24 Hour Fitness and others. Résumé counseling will also be available.

"We wanted to use the resources of our office to pull together employers and get résumés into the hands of employers," said Michelle Henry, a Buchanan staffer.

Buchanan represents the 15th Assembly District, which includes Elk Grove.

For more information, call Buchanan's office at (916) 319-2015.

Help for military vets

Military veteran job seekers can find help in their employment search at the Sacramento Veterans Resource Center.

The center, at 7270 E. Southgate Drive, offers job training opportunities, Internet job search assistance, résumé counseling and help in preparing for interviews.

Orientation sessions are 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, call the center at (916) 393-8387 or visit www.vietvets.org

We want to hear from you

Is your company hiring? Is your organization hosting a career fair? Is your campus rolling out a job skills program? Contact Job Front at dvsmith@sacbee.com.

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